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Title: Regarding improving harboulur facilities in Lakshadweep.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Madam, the one and only established passage to Lakshadweep is through ship and the sea, except Agatti Island where an air strip is there. I would say that Lakshadweep is the most unsafe area in our country for embarkation and disembarkation on ship. It becomes very worse and it is at its maximum during the monsoon season. We have the history of losing our lives. Some people have permanently become disabled due to unsafe embarkation and disembarkation. I am particularly talking about developing infrastructure for embarkation and disembarkation of passengers to the ship and to the shore.

Taking into consideration this problem, the Administration of Lakshadweep has proposed for construction of eastern jetties and break waters, deepening and widening of entrance channels. All those things are in place.

My only request to the Government, specially to the Ministry of Shipping, is this. Those areas where we have constructed eastern side jetties are not in operation full time because it is in the open sea. The Government has to come out with some solution for effective utilization of these eastern side jetties. Only then people will be able to embark and disembark properly.

Secondly, we can have deepening and widening of entrance channels. This is also a big concern for the islanders where ship can enter inside and berth alongside.

Thirdly, I have a video clip in my mobile, which I can show you, Madam, displaying the hardship when I traveled with my family to attend this Monsoon Session. The people of Lakshadweep are still facing such a hardship.

There is a proposal for construction of break waters in my own island, Andrott, which is of 700 meters and which costs around Rs. 660 crore. This project has been put on the back seat only because of shortage of funds. Now that cost may escalate to Rs. 1000 crore.

If the Government values the lives of the people rather than money, they should take immediate steps in this regard. By God's mercy, I am standing here today. Madam, I will show you the video clipping, if you permit me, in your cabin.

The point is, the break water is the only solution for the people of Andrott to travel to the mainland. If the Government sanctions some additional fund for the construction of break waters and other infrastructure which I have mentioned, it will be very great of the Government.

HON. SPEAKER:

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Mohammed Faizal.